Committee of the Whole Wednesday, March 13, 2024 Thornton Fractional Center for Academics & Technology, 1605 Wentworth Ave., Calumet City, IL 60409 MINUTES



President Stepp called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with the following roll call: **Present:** Ballard, Newman, Stepp, Townsend **Absent:** Jackson, Terrazas, Wilson

- 2. Communication/Public Comment--none
- 3. Buildings Grounds/Safety Committee--Member Townsend
 - 3.A. Administrative Center Offices—Mr. Robinzine shared administration wanted to revisit the pricing and look at other options for students to be involved in helping build. He has talked with the architect and the work has to be done by certified contractors, however, he will waive his fees providing a savings of \$12,000. It will be brought forward for approval at the March meeting. Discussion was if there is available space at other buildings—administration has looked and there is none.
 - 3.B. Building Usage Report—continuing to collect fees.
- 4. Finance Committee--Member Jackson
 - 4.A. Summer Camps 2024—Ms. Bishop shared administration will be seeking approval at the March meeting with no change from last year adding the cost change is only \$2,000 for coaches. There were no additional requests for camps, and she will review procedures if others were requested what the process would be.
- 5. Curriculum Committee--Member Ballard
 - 5.A. Freshmen Orientation 2024—Mr. Robinzine introduced teacher Cynthia Benson who has worked on this project. She shared that most conference high schools do a freshmen orientation and that when it was previously done it was a designated ½ day. This committee determined it would be more impactful to provide a full day. She reviewed the goals and the program noting the goal is to create a positive learning environment on the first day. Discussion included when book distribution is--July 29-30.

6. IT Committee--Member Wilson

- 6.A. Classroom Technology Initiative—Mr. Wakefield shared that there have been discussions with the board about developing a plan for about a year. He added the age of classroom interactive devices is becoming an issue and while every need cannot be addressed, what was heard from teachers more than anything is they do not want to be tethered to the front of the classroom. They want technology that allows them to move around the room and interact with students and technology. This initiative adds a lot to the classroom and guiding principles are to make sure it is sustainable, that it is equitable depending on the classroom and what is available. Funding will come through a portion of ESSER funds, the technology budget and local funds. He added that he appreciated all the work and the pilot which was done. Teachers were surveyed and the plan is a good solution working within the resources the district has.
- 6.B. Student Chromebook Purchase—This request represents the annual purchase for incoming students with a few extra being purchased.

6.C. Enhanced District Wide Network Connectivity—Mr. Wakefield shared the current system has been adequate. However, more and more work in the district requires internet access. The state rolled out E-rate for 100% of cost by joining consortium which the district has always been a part of it. The goal for the district is to take away the single carrier issue and single path and single building. This represents a good value because it is cost neutral and there is no risk of disruption to services while being set up.

7. Behavior Intervention/Parent-Teacher Advisory Committee--Member Newman

7.A. 2024-25 Student Handbook—The handbook was re-presented to obtain approval at the March board meeting. Discussion included by some members that the dress code policy needs to be re-addressed; that they are very uncomfortable with the existing dress code especially rules about headwear and crop tops. Questions included if it is disruptive to the learning environment and are deans focused on dress code violations instead of other behaviors. All shared a focus on student safety with some voicing concern that some headwear can be a safety risk by covering up faces on cameras. Further discussion was that if it is changed now, a delay in registration will be created. The Crown Act was discussed as well as observations of a visit at District 228 who issues district headwear if it is wanted by the students. The consensus was to vote at the March board meeting as it is and if it doesn't pass, then re-visit it.

8. Adjourn

I move to adjourn the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

This motion, made by Member Townsend and seconded by Member Newman, passed on voice vote.

President

Secretary

Recording Secretary